



Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza

UTAH DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

Winter/Spring 2022

ag.utah.gov

Since January 2022, the USDA has confirmed cases of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in wild and domestic birds in multiple states. Some wild birds and game birds can carry HPAI without appearing sick. However, HPAI is highly fatal in chickens, turkeys, and other bird species. Chicken and turkey owners should be aware of this disease, practice good biosecurity, and watch for signs of disease in their birds.

BIOSECURITY CHECKLIST

- ☐ Understand what poses a disease risk: wild birds and pests can spread disease, but so can feathers, nests, feces, and other organic materials. These items can come in contact with your flock through poultry enclosures, feed and water supplies, and even vehicles.
- ☐ Know when to worry: some bird death is normal. A large percentage of dead or dying birds in your flock is not normal. Rule out obvious causes such as predators, weather, or other factors. Report unexplained large death losses to your veterinarian, your cooperative extension agent, or UDAF right away.
- ☐ Quarantine any new birds for 30 days. Check for sneezing, coughing, nasal drainage, swollen eyes, mites, lice, and other health issues regularly.
- ☐ After combining new birds with your existing flock, check all birds for signs of illness daily.
- ☐ Store feed and fresh litter in closed bins to prevent contamination. Keep bagged feed off the floor. Remove spilled or uneaten feed right away.
- ☐ Clean and disinfect equipment to remove feces, feathers, and litter. Viruses and bacteria can survive for months inside these materials.
- ☐ Do not share tools or poultry supplies with other flocks.
- ☐ Ask visitors if they have been in contact with wild birds or pet birds. If so, they should not go near your flock. Some diseases can survive in a person's nose for two days.
- ☐ Do not purchase birds that appear unhealthy.
- ☐ Collect all dead birds as soon as possible and dispose of them properly.
- ☐ When starting a new flock, remove all manure and litter and do a complete cleaning and disinfection before adding any birds.
- ☐ Wear dedicated clothing that you only use when caring for your poultry. This includes boots that can be disinfected.

Look for signs of illness

- *Reduced energy or appetite*
- *Decreased water consumption*
- *Lower egg production*
- *Soft-shelled or misshapen eggs*
- *Swelling of the head, eyelids, comb, wattles, and shanks*
- *Purple discoloration of the wattles, comb, and legs*
- *Difficulty breathing*
- *Runny nose or sneezing*
- *Twisting of the head and neck*
- *Stumbling or falling down*
- *Diarrhea*
- *Decreased activity*
- *Tremors*
- *Circling*
- *Complete stillness*

For more information about how to keep your flocks healthy, follow Defend the Flock on Facebook and Twitter and visit www.aphis.usda.gov/animalhealth/defendtheflock.

Report unexplained large death losses:
USDA Veterinary Services: (801) 524-5010
Utah Department of Agriculture and Food: (801) 982-2200

